



MT DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

Sidney Job Service

JSEC Quarterly



Inside this issue:

New Staff	2
Unemployment Rates	2
Gift Cards	2
5 in 1 Posters	3
Facebook Page	3
Minimum Wage	3

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Winter Safety

Winter is upon us! When you are traveling in the northern plains in the wintertime run through this checklist: Fuel up and stay above a half tank, check the road conditions <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo> or call 511, tell someone where you are going, what time you leave, and the route you are taking to get there. Drive on well traveled roads and then call them when you arrive safely. Don't use the cruise control on icy roads!! If you run into problems, keep these things in mind: use a tow rope, not a chain to pull a vehicle that is stuck, chains can backlash and cause serious injuries or death. If a chain is the only available item, throw a heavy jacket or blanket over it before attempting to tow a vehicle. If you are stuck and it looks like you will be in the vehicle for awhile, stay with the vehicle unless you can clearly see a sturdier/warmer structure. Run the engine 10 minutes each hour for heat and crack the window just a bit. Keep the tailpipe clear. Remember, a hubcap or a visor can be used as a shovel! Distress Signal is: Honk your horn for three long blasts, 10 seconds apart. Repeat every 30 seconds.

Vehicle Preparedness Kit:

Cell phone and charger

First-aid kit

Extra clothing (hats, gloves, snow pants)

Ice Scraper

Spare Tire

Water bottles or container

High-calorie, non-perishable foods

Moist Towlettes/Paper Towels

Flares/Whistle to signal for help

Tool kit

Blankets/sleeping bags

Flashlights with extra batteries

Tow Rope

Battery booster cables or a battery booster

Compass/Road Maps

JSEC Members

Sharon Nelson
Sidney Sugars

MaryAnn Vester
Dawson Community College

Fred Lake
M & M Café

Wade VanEvery
Sidney Chamber of Commerce

Leslie Messer
Richland Economic Development

Lisa Aisenbrey/ Jeri Chapman
Sidney Health Center

Cheryl Van Every
Stockman Bank

Renee Goss
Sidney Public Library

Pam Wilcoxon/ Colleen Topp/
Vernette Torgerson
Sidney Job Service

Loren Young
Richland County Commissioner

Craig Steinbeisser
VS Inc/ Beet Growers Association

Jeremy Norby
Norby Inc./Seitz Insurance

New Members

Welcome!!

JSEC-A Community Asset

The Job Service Employer Committee (JSEC) is a powerful tool that ensures effective use of your tax dollars, influences how Job Service works, taps into educational training resources, impacts programs to meet business needs, and provides a statewide network among employers. JSEC involves local business people identifying and addressing the needs of their fellow business community members. If you would like to become a member of this valuable group, please contact Vernetta Torgerson or Pam Wilcoxon at Sidney Job Service

Sidney Job Service Adds Two New Employment Specialists

Pam Wilcoxon joined the Job Service Staff on October 24th. Pam transferred to the Job Service Department from the Driver Exam office. Previous to that she was in the banking industry for 18 years. "I am excited for this new opportunity to help people find employment. I am also excited to learn about the many programs that the Job Service has to offer both job seekers and employers." Pam and her husband Jeremy own Redline Audio & Cellular and have 3 children- Briana, Chantel, & Cameron.

Anna French joined the team on October 31st. Anna moved here from Billings and previously worked for the Human Resources Development Council as a TANF case manager and WEX coordinator. Anna is very excited to be able to continue using her case management skills in her new position. Anna is a busy mom of five children-one year old twins, four year old twins, and a nine year old.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for Montana fell 0.1% points in October 2011 to 7.6%. The state unemployment rate was 1.4% points lower than the national rate of 9% for the month. The unemployment rate in Montana peaked in August 2011 at 7.8%. Richland County is at 2.8%. It has the 2nd lowest county unemployment rate in the state. Williston's unemployment rate is at 2.6%.



Gift Cards

Under Montana state law, gift cards and gift certificates from an individual merchant do not expire! Further, gift cards or gift certificates that have less than \$5 remaining on them but were originally valued at over \$5 can be redeemed for cash. Gift cards that can be used with multiple sellers of goods and services, like those from a mall or other retail center, or prepaid cards are not considered gift cards in Montana. Under federal laws enacted last year, cards usable with multiple merchants and prepaid credit cards are valid for at least five years from the date the card is purchased. For further questions, contact the Office of Consumer Protection at 406-444-4500.



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SIDNEY JOB SERVICE

Phone: 406-433-1204

Fax: 406-433-7453

211 N Central Ave Sidney MT 59270



The New 5 in 1 Posters are available

FREE

at Sidney Job Service.

No Smoking, MT Minimum Wage and USSERA are also available.

It has come to our attention that many businesses are getting calls and emails to buy posters. Some are very threatening. You do not have to BUY these posters. Our office will provide them for free.

The information provided herein is general in nature and intended as a guide only. It is not intended as a substitute for legal advice, to dictate policy, provide direction to your organization or to remove you from the responsibility or addressing your personnel issues. It is recommended that you seek independent legal advice from an appropriate professional to make sure that the general information provided applies to your

Sidney Job Service Facebook Page

Find us on Facebook! Sidney Job Service is participating in a pilot project on social media. As of July 21st the office now has a Facebook page.

The office will be updating posts weekly featuring various projects, events, and information that may be useful to businesses and job seekers. However, job listings will not be posted on Facebook.

This forum will also give our customers a more immediate way to connect with our staff.

Check us out, like us, and if you have any questions or comments feel free to post or give us a call. To find us go to www.facebook.com/SidneyJobService.



Minimum Wage

Montana's Minimum Wage Will Increase \$0.30 January 1, 2012

Montana workers earning minimum wage will see an increase from \$7.35 per hour to \$7.65 per hour on January 1, 2012. "As the cost of living continues to increase, the law passed by Montanans in 2006 helps those making minimum wage keep their head above water," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly.

Information relating to Montana's minimum wage may be downloaded from DLI's website at www.mtwagehourbopa.com